

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

**Special entrepreneurship scheme for setting up units**

3342. SHRI B. J PANDA;

MS. PRAM I LA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Services Institute of the Centre in association with National Mission for Bamboo Application proposes to roll out a special entrepreneurship scheme in this sector, which envisages setting up of units as well as marketing to generate employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far this project would help the Orissa State on the lines of North Eastern region which have tapped the potential of this plan to their optimum benefit; and

(d) what are the details of help both financial and physical that would be provided to the Orissa State to exploit this potential?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASHAD): (a) and (b) With a view to facilitating the promotion and development of Bamboo and Bamboo processing relating industries, the Small Industries Service Institute (SISI) at Cuttack conducted a National Seminar-Cum-Exhibition between 8 and 10 February, 2006. Thereafter, with the support of the National Mission for Bamboo Application (NMBA), an Entrepreneurs Meet was held on 28 February, 2007 in which 34 serious entrepreneurs participated. A special emphasis was laid on entrepreneurs having closed saw mills to enable them to convert their units into bamboo based enterprises. The SISI at Cuttack intends to work in close collaboration with NMBA to develop the bamboo sector by (i) organizing exposure visit of 7 entrepreneurs to Nagaland and Ratnagari, and (ii) to conduct Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) of bamboo based industries, in the current year.

(c) and (d) At this stage, bamboo related entrepreneurship in Orissa is not as developed as the North-East. However, the SISI at Cuttack intends to work in close collaboration with NMBA and Orissa Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA) to develop Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSEs) based on Bamboo through organizing Entrepreneurship and skill Development Programmes, preparation of project reports, conduct of exposure visits, etc.